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EDUCATOR-TURNED-COMEDIAN BRINGS LIFE
AFTER TEACHING TO HALIFAX STAGE

PAGE 21

HALIFAX

metro

®

Thursday, November 22, 2012



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DRAKKAR SUNK

Halifax Mooseheads forward Max Lindsay, right, tries to take the puck from Baie-Comeau Drakkar's Thomas Gobeil during QMJHL action at the Halifax Metro Centre on Wednesday night. Halifax won 6-2, with Lindsay scoring his first QMJHL goal. Story, page 40. JEFF HARPER/METRO

1 + 1 = 1 in school merger

Provincial government will spend \$18 million to build a new P-9 school PAGE 8

Will Gaza ceasefire last?

That was the question after Israel and Hamas agreed to stop the fighting PAGE 10

'We're still far apart'

Despite moving in the right direction, the NHL and NHLPA aren't close to a deal PAGE 40

Dexter stands his ground on centre facts

Trade Centre Ltd.

Premier says Crown corporation study used eight different marketing analysts

Premier Darrell Dexter is dismissing the auditor general's recommendation for an independent study on the long-term marketability of a new convention centre in Halifax.

In his latest report, released Wednesday, Jacques Lapointe criticized the provincial government for using a report authored by Trade Centre Ltd. to justify investing \$56 million in a new centre slated to open in 2015 as part of Nova Centre.

The 2010 report from TCL included a 10-year economic forecast for the proposed megaproject. It projected direct expenditures by national and international clientele to grow dramatically over the

Quoted



"We don't have a facility that's meeting the needs of

the province. This will be important not only to the city of Halifax but the entire province."

Premier Darrell Dexter

decade, ranging from 192 per cent to 519 per cent.

But Dexter said Trade Centre Ltd. went out of its way to produce a neutral, accurate report by using eight different marketing-analysis companies.

"Those studies were done, and they are in fact based on information that came about independent of the Trade Centre by respected market-analysis companies, so I have

no reason to disbelieve those projections," Dexter told reporters at the legislature.

Lapointe's latest report indicates the province also rejected his recommendation for a third-party study to determine whether market conditions supported a new convention centre.

"With any significant investment of taxpayers' money it is essential that the government be provided with the best available information to make sound decisions to protect the public interest," Lapointe told reporters.

Liberal MLA Andrew Younger criticized the government for refusing to allow an independent study of the convention market.

"If they want the public to get behind a convention centre than they need to have data that is defensible," Younger said.

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO

More on the TCL, page 3

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Trade Centre CEO defends facility, own performance



Trade Centre Ltd. president Scott Ferguson says the Crown corporation has already completed 12 of the 20 recommendations listed in the province's auditor general report. METRO FILE

Under the gun.
Auditor general report slams TCL for rampant financial mismanagement



ANDREW RANKIN
andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

The province's auditor general report came down hard on the Trade Centre Ltd.'s business model on Wednesday, taking aim at the Crown corporation from its financial management practices to its CEO's expense accounts.

Scott Ferguson, Trade Centre Ltd.'s president and CEO, took Jacques Lapointe's criticisms in stride in a late-day interview. The report states Ferguson's travel expenses were not approved and not supported by appropriate documentation.

Ferguson said he was six

Quoted



"We found the financial and operational activity were not appropriately managed. The Crown corporation lacks an adequate internal control framework." Jacques Lapointe

months into his role as CEO and president during Lapointe's review of the facility. He said a new system of checks and balances has since been put in place over the last year where his expenses are now signed off by the chair of the board.

Lapointe's report came with 20 recommendations addressing a host of problems relating to the facility's procurement policy, which in many cases didn't follow

government procedures, and inadequate management of revenue and expenses.

Ferguson said Trade Centre Ltd. has already completed 12 of those recommendations and will implement the other eight by the end of the fiscal year.

Ferguson took issue with Lapointe's criticism, however, of the Trade Centre's convention centre study heavily favouring the proposed megaproject, which the province used as the basis to approve \$56 million in funding for the project.

"I stand by it. We know these markets," said Ferguson. "We know our destination. We've been discussing and engaging the public. We've done primary and secondary research and we've covered all the bases."

Now, he said, it's time to get down to business.

"My focus now is to deliver on those projections once the facility opens in 2016," he said.

Convention centre developer unfazed by AG report

If the developer of Halifax's new convention centre was upset by Wednesday's auditor general report criticizing a favourable Crown corporation study of the megaproject, he didn't show it.

Instead, Joe Ramia left Pier 21 — the site of the last public consultation session before final design plans for the Nova Centre are scheduled to be unveiled Dec. 5 — an inspired man, he said.

Late Wednesday evening, he said he hadn't had time to read Jacques Lapointe's report. He insists he's focused on the



Joe Ramia JEFF HARPER/METRO

business side of the venture, and it's full speed ahead.

The design aspect of the convention centre, which will border Prince, Market, Sackville and Argyle streets and feature a giant glass ballroom that crosses Grafton Street, remains

fundamentally the same.

Ramia said the parking-lot entrance would be moved from the pedestrian-friendly Argyle Street to another location, which will be revealed in the final design.

Wednesday's discussion was mostly about aesthetics. Ramia said he was excited about a young man's suggestion of projecting landscapes on the exterior glass surface.

"To envision a rolling ocean depicted on the exterior glass at night, for example. That's exciting," he said.

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO

Lower Sackville. Man dead after being struck in crosswalk by car

A 34-year-old man is dead after he was struck by a car in a Lower Sackville crosswalk on Wednesday night.

Police say the accident happened at 6:14 p.m. on Glendale Drive as the victim was crossing the road in a marked crosswalk at Raymond Drive near Sackville High School.

The man was rushed to hospital with life-threatening injuries, but was pronounced dead by police later in the evening.

Investigation ongoing

- Halifax RCMP spokesman Cpl. Scott MacRae said a decision on charges hasn't been determined as they continue to investigate.

The driver of the car, an 81-year-old woman, was uninjured.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO

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Guilty. Life sentence for Halifax man who sexually assaulted senior

A Halifax man guilty of committing sexual assault on an elderly woman in Springhill in October has been sentenced to life in prison.

Paul Noiles, 45, pleaded guilty to breaking into the 84-year-old woman's home and sexually assaulting her on Oct. 7.

On Wednesday, an Amherst Provincial Court judge sentenced Noiles to life in prison for break-and-enter with intent, as well as 14 years for sexual assault.

On the night of the Oct. 7 incident, a neighbour called police to report suspicious activity at the victim's home. Police discovered the woman's home had been broken into and that she had been sexually assaulted. With the help of tracking dogs, police were able to locate Noiles at a nearby home.

Noiles has a history of sexual predation.

His most recent conviction was in 2000 when he was convicted of break-and-entering a home and sexually assaulting



Paul Noiles covers his face after a court appearance in Amherst in October. AMHERST DAILY NEWS

a 71-year-old woman. He was sentenced to eight years custody for that crime.

He was also convicted in 1999 after he was found guilty of committing sexual assault on a 17-year-old girl.

Three years earlier, in 1996, he pleaded guilty to assaulting the same girl when she was 14 years old.

Noiles was also convicted of several crimes in the 1980s.

AMHERST DAILY NEWS

Attempted murder charge. 'Black Widow' waives preliminary trial

A 77-year-old woman dubbed the "Black Widow" who is charged with trying to murder an elderly man has waived her right to a preliminary hearing.

Crown prosecutor Diane McGrath says Melissa Shephard, previously referred to as Melissa Weeks, appeared by video conference before a judge today in Sydney, N.S.

McGrath says Shephard elected a trial by judge and jury before the Nova Scotia Supreme Court.

The prosecutor says Shephard will remain in a Halifax jail and will be back before the

Use of surname

The Crown says the courts have decided to use the woman's earlier surname because the marriage to Weeks was never certified.

court on Dec. 3, when a trial date will be set.

Shephard was charged last month with attempted murder and administering a noxious thing after 75-year-old Fred Weeks fell ill at a Sydney bed and breakfast. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Cleaning up after a motorcycle and car collide

A firefighter cleans up the debris of a motorcycle after it collided with a car at the corner of Brunswick and Cornwallis streets on Wednesday afternoon. Police say there were no injuries. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Urgent funds needed for hospitals: Official

'Deficiencies': Auditor general Jacques Lapointe's report finds no long-term capital plans for N.S. hospitals

Nova Scotia's auditor general sounded the alarm over the state of the province's hospitals Wednesday, warning that they will continue to deteriorate if capital funding is not increased.

Jacques Lapointe said the Health Department has estimated that more than \$600 million will be needed in the next decade for basic infrastruc-

ture needs just to maintain the health system.

Lapointe concluded in his fall report that if funding is kept at current levels, the province wouldn't be able to cover equipment and infrastructure repairs as well as replacement needs.

"Significant deficiencies in infrastructure and equipment often continue due to lack of funding," said Lapointe. "Decisions as to how the funding is allocated are inconsistent and are not necessarily based on logical considerations like usage."

His report said there is no provincial long-term capital planning for hospitals and the

Health Department doesn't track the extent to which equipment and buildings are used.

Lapointe said there are also problems with the way the department prioritizes equipment replacement. He said scoring criteria is not shared with district health authorities and leads to variations in how the districts rank their own needs.

"As a result, districts might or might not receive funding for their top priorities. For example, one district this year received funding for its fourth and 10th ranked items, but for no others."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Safety first

- Health Minister David Wilson said safety is taken into account as the province evaluates requests from health authorities.
- "If there's a piece of equipment that's failing or needs replacing, then it's given a higher priority than something that is maybe just aging," said Wilson.

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*Comparing the shared HSPA+ network available from TELUS to the public disclosure of 4G network coverage of other provincial service providers for October 2012. © 2012 TELUS.



Justice Minister Ross Landry, left, and chief medical examiner Dr. Matthew Bowes stand inside a cold storage room during the tour of the new centre for forensic medicine in Burnside on Wednesday.
HALEY RYAN/METRO

Burnside's new forensic medical facility goes green

Dr. William D. Finn.
Centre named for first
medical examiner in
the country



HALEY
RYAN

haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Nova Scotia's new forensic medical centre will give grieving families better answers

at the time they need them most, said the province's medical examiner.

"It's the top of the heap, undoubtedly," said chief medical examiner Dr. Matthew Bowes, at the opening of the Dr. William D. Finn Centre for Forensic Medicine in Burnside on Wednesday.

Until now, the medical examiner has operated out of a morgue at the Victoria General Hospital and an office on

Forensic medicine

The facility begins
autopsies Dec. 10.

Spring Garden Road.

"It was not an efficient use of our resources, and not easy when grieving families had to come to discuss the death of a loved one," said Justice Minister Ross Landry.

The new building has plenty of room for office workers and doctors performing autopsies, in separate areas of the facility divided by a breezeway.

Bowes said the use of fresh air cycled in from the outdoors cuts the risk of airborne pathogens, and staff have reported fewer headaches.

Other green energy initiatives like solar panels, rain-

water collection and motion-sensitive lighting have the centre on track to meet LEED standards.

And, when a body arrives at the centre, it will stay on the same gurney through the course of its examination.

"By eliminating the autopsy table we eliminate cost, complexity and the possibility of injury," Bowes said, noting his staff often hurt themselves while moving a body.

'Out of history'

Descendant of Dr. Finn proud of legacy

The granddaughter of the man for whom the new centre is named said her family is overjoyed to bring his story "out of history."

"When we drove up and saw the name on the building, it was just like Christmas Day," said Nancy Crane on Wednesday. "We were like kids running around and looking at everything."

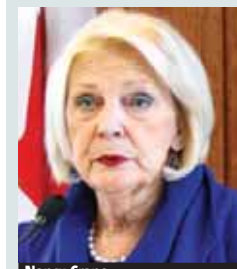
Dr. William D. Finn was appointed the medical examiner of Halifax in 1895, the first person to hold that position in Canada.

He was in office during both the Halifax Explosion and the sinking of the Titanic, when hundreds of bodies were brought to the city for identification.

While she never knew her grandfather, Crane said when times were tough she often thought about his perseverance and took strength in that.

"I even passed along his cane," said Crane. "It says 1897 right on the top."

The cane rests in the lobby of the forensic building, beneath a photo of Finn. **HALEY RYAN/METRO**



Nancy Crane **HALEY RYAN/METRO**

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Dartmouth to get new P-9 school

Overdue. New facility will combine junior high and elementary students under one roof



HALEY RYAN

haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Sonya Davey says the consolidation of her son's school in Dartmouth is certainly a change, but one for the better.

"It'll be one school, it'll have everything. There won't be as much of a transition from elementary to junior high," said Davey, a member on the Student Advisory Council of Southdale-North Woodside Elementary.

Labour and Advanced Education Minister Marilyn More announced Wednesday that the provincial government will spend \$18 million to build a new P-9 school in a still-to-be-determined location.

The new school will replace Prince Arthur Junior High School as well as Southdale school, both of which are over 60 years old.

"It's long been known that there needed to be a replacement school for Prince Arthur," said More, who said

Quoted

"It's in bad shape."

Parent Karen McDonald describes the physical condition of Prince Arthur Junior High School

the school board put a request in years ago.

Students at the new school will have a cafeteria, which neither school has right now, and specialty learning centres.

"The elementary school gym is terrible," said Karen McDonald, a SAC member for Prince Arthur with children in both schools.

"I can't think of any redeeming qualities of the structure of the school."

Halifax Regional School Board chair Gin Yee said it's "up in the air" what the administration could look like in the new school, but said if there is enough enrolment two vice-principals could be used.

Yee added he will push for students to remain at their schools until the new one is ready for use, allowing a smooth transition.

"The best part of both schools is the teachers and administration. They've always been really good," McDonald said.

The next step will have



Becky Kent, MLA for Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage, greets students at Southdale-North Woodside Elementary School on Wednesday during the province's announcement that a new P-9 school is being built. **HALEY RYAN/METRO**

SAC members come together with the school board and form a steering committee

to decide where the school should be built, and what to name it.

The government hopes to break ground this spring. "I'm really hoping it stays

in the neighbourhood," said Davey. "If it moves out it won't be very convenient."



An artist's rendering of the Skye Halifax development. **CONTRIBUTED**

Skye developer considering options for downtown site

The developer behind the Skye Halifax project says he still believes in his vision of a "magical, iconic" building for the downtown site — despite the council decision to stop the project in its tracks.

Navid Saberi of United Gulf said Wednesday he was disappointed by regional council's 9-6 vote against sending the 48-storey twin towers to a public hearing.

"We wanted the public hearing, we wanted councillors to listen to the pub-

lic," he said. "We just never guessed it wouldn't even go to the public hearing."

Council members who voted to stop the proposal in its tracks cited the importance of adhering to the HRMbyDesign guidelines.

Saberi said he respects HRMbyDesign, but council could — and should — have considered an exception for his proposal.

"HRMbyDesign doesn't work every time, and when it doesn't work you make an exception," he said.

Mayor Mike Savage warned that approving Skye Halifax would return a "degree of chaos" to the downtown development climate, but Saberi dismissed that argument.

"There's no one else asking for these exceptions," he said. "There's only so many sites downtown to build something magical and something iconic."

Saberi said the Skye towers were designed to maintain the square footage of the original Twisted Sisters

structures and lower the price of residential units. He said a 20-storey structure that complies with HRMbyDesign would face logistical problems that would inevitably raise the cost of condos and apartments.

Saberi said he'll sit down with architects in the next few days to examine the options for the site — but after six years of planning, he said he may have to consider calling it a day.

"What do you do, you're

By the numbers

- HRMbyDesign height limits: 66 metres.
- Skye Halifax maximum height: 172 metres.

sold on a idea and we've spent a lot of money on this project," he said. "At some point, do you walk away? That's a decision I'll have to make." **RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO**

Nova Scotia wineries

Province proposes legislation to allow cross-border importation of wine

Nova Scotia wine drinkers would be able to import wine from other parts of Canada under provincial legislation proposed Wednesday.

Finance Minister Maureen MacDonald says changes to Nova Scotia's regulations follows a recent decision by the federal government to lift

its prohibition on wine importation.

If the legislation becomes law, Nova Scotia would join British Columbia and Manitoba as the only provinces to allow direct importation.

MacDonald says she will write to her counterparts in other provinces to encourage them to make similar changes.

She says the removal of provincial barriers would provide a growth opportunity for Nova Scotia's 18 wineries.

The Finance Department says Nova Scotia hit \$13.3 million in wine sales in 2011,



Maureen MacDonald
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

a 65 per cent increase from 2001.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sally Ann Energy Fund

Program helps low-income families heat homes

The Nova Scotia government is spending \$400,000 to help low-income seniors and families pay their home heating bills. The Salvation Army's Good Neighbour Energy Fund helps with all forms of home heating, although the majority of requests for assistance are for oil and electricity. Application forms will be available online in January. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Break-and-enter

Men charged in string of thefts

Two men from the South Shore are facing several charges after a string of thefts in the region. Police say Lawrence Glen Nickerson, 21, and John Vantrease, 46, are facing 19 and eight charges, respectively, including break-and-enter, theft over \$5,000 and theft of a motor vehicle from incidents in Shelburne, Bridgewater and Port Medway. **METRO**

For more local news, go to metronews.ca

River View Manor

Fire forces evacuation of 40 people from N.B. nursing home

All residents of a nursing home in western New Brunswick are safe after a fire Wednesday forced their evacuation. In a statement, Michael Keating, executive director of the New Brunswick Association of Nursing Homes, says two of the residents had to be taken to hospital for treatment related to smoke inhalation. **METRO**

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It's a Gaza deal ... after 1,500 air strikes and 1,500 rocket attacks

The question. Can two bitter foes, Israel and Hamas, make the ceasefire hold?

Will it last?

That was the question being asked in Israel and Gaza on Wednesday as a ceasefire was forged after an incredible two days of intense shuttle diplomacy.

"I just hope they commit to peace," said Abdel-Nasser al-Tom, from northern Gaza.

Despite the fears, joy broke out like an explosion.

Cheering Gazans emerged from their homes after a week, flooding the streets in wild celebration.

Gunmen fired in the air, and chants of "God is great" echoed from mosque loudspeakers.

Residents hugged and kissed in celebration, while others distributed candy and waved Hamas flags.

Israel and the Hamas

Morsi's moment

The ceasefire deal marks a startling trajectory for the mediator — Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi.

- **New role.** The man who refused to talk to the Israelis or even say the country's name finally turned himself into Israel's protector.

militant group agreed to the ceasefire Wednesday after eight days of the fiercest fighting in nearly four years.

They promised to halt air strikes and rocket attacks that have killed scores and to ease an Israeli blockade constricting the Gaza Strip.

The truce will "improve conditions for the people of Gaza and provide security for the people of Israel," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in Cairo.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



In this image taken from Egyptian state television, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton shakes hands with Egypt's foreign minister, Mohammed Kamel Amr, in Cairo after a ceasefire was announced between Israel and Hamas. Clinton shuttled across the region to help end the fighting. EGYPTIAN STATE TELEVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baird speaks out

Hamas and Israel? It's not complex

There has been nothing complicated about the conflict between Israel

and Hamas, says Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird.

"It's not a complex issue," he

said as a ceasefire was declared.

"You have a terrorist group launching rockets against Israel."

But the broader question of Mideast peace is far more complicated, he stressed, adding he's "cautiously optimistic" about the ceasefire.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top leader steps in

Ahmadinejad grilling blocked

Iran's supreme leader has stopped the country's parliament from grilling the president over the nation's plummeting currency and economic crisis, the official IRNA news agency reports.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei demanded that parliament drop its plan to grill President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, saying such a session would benefit Iran's enemies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sex-scandal fallout

Back at work ... under a cloud

Gen. John Allen, caught up in the David Petraeus sex scandal, has returned to Kabul to resume his duties as the top U.S. and NATO commander of the war in Afghanistan.

The Pentagon has said it's investigating potentially "inappropriate" correspondence between Allen and a woman linked to the former CIA chief. Petraeus resigned from his CIA post after acknowledging an extramarital affair with his biographer, Paula Broadwell.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Web war. Israel fighting back with the big guns: Twitter and Facebook

Israel is using social media to pre-empt a publicity pounding over its Gaza offensive.

It's furiously tweeting and posting Facebook updates from a "media bunker."

The instant they heard about a bus bombing in Tel Aviv on Wednesday, scores of tech-savvy youth in Israel's media command centre in Jerusalem sprang into action.

They began flooding social media with updates and created a graphic exclaiming: "We didn't send in our ground troops, but they sent in theirs!"

Hundreds of volunteers have produced and posted instant videos and graphics about the latest twists in the Gaza offensive from Israel's point of view.

Its Facebook site, Israel Under Fire, has gained more than 24,000 "likes" over the last week.

"They used to say the Elders of Zion controlled the media. Well, here are the youngsters of Zion who are running it," said Daniel Seaman, a chief at the Ministry of Public Diplomacy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Israel fought back via social media after this bus was bombed in Tel Aviv Wednesday. Twenty-seven people were hurt. ODED BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Alleged theft of toys 'targeted': Sally Ann

Salvation Army. The charitable organization calls organized plot to steal toys over past two years 'troubling'

The Salvation Army believes 100,000 toys were stolen from its Toronto warehouse over the past two years in a "targeted," strategic plot to defraud the charity.

Police have been investigating the alleged theft, estimated to be worth about \$2 million, since late September, but have not made any arrests.

The news comes as the Salvation Army is preparing to start its annual Christmas Kettle Campaign, where volunteers solicit donations in high-traffic areas like shopping malls and on the street.

About 140,000 toys are distributed to families in need each holiday season from the Toronto warehouse, but spokesman John Murray said at a news conference Wednesday that no one will go without.

"I can assure you that anyone in need this Christmas will be helped by the Salvation Army," he said.



Maj. John Murray of the Salvation Army attends a news conference at their Rainside Road food and toy distribution centre in Toronto on Wednesday after discussing the alleged theft of several million dollars worth of items. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"To those Canadians who routinely and generously give to the Salvation Army I would appeal to you this afternoon to not lose confidence in the work of the Salvation Army and the work that we do on your behalf in Canadian cities."

A whistleblower within the organization tipped the Salvation Army off a few months ago and internal auditors made the "troubling" discovery, Mur-

ray said.

Executive director David Rennie was then fired. No criminal charges have been laid.

Meanwhile, the executive director at the Salvation Army in Ottawa has been fired after auditors discovered \$250,000 has gone missing. Perry Rowe had been with the charity's Booth Centre for eight years.

Police have not yet deter-

mined what happened to the toys at the Toronto warehouse. Murray said the Salvation Army believes no other locations have been hit with alleged thefts.

"This is an isolated situation," he said. "We believe that it's been very specific. It's been targeted. It's been very strategic in the way that it was put together. It was thought out."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Politics. Tensions rise between federal gov't, First Nations over bill

The federal Conservative government is pushing through more First Nations legislation that does not have the support of chiefs, despite growing tension between Ottawa and native leaders.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan said Wednesday his party is forcing a vote to shut down debate on a financial transparency bill that will require First Nations chiefs and councillors to publish their salaries and expenses.

The move means the bill will pass the House of Commons by the end of this week — over the objections of chiefs, as well as the federal NDP and Liberals. Various forms of the bill have been around for three years, stalled by electoral cycles and opposition from the Assembly of First Nations.

"It's unfortunate that we have to take this measure," Duncan told a news conference.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Driving. Are higher premiums for those over 80 age discrimination?

Whether an insurance company can charge more for drivers over the age of 80 is the subject of a two-day human-rights hearing slated to start Thursday in a case that could affect thousands of Ontario seniors.

In his complaint, Denis Olorenshaw argues that setting higher premiums for drivers based on their plus-80 status amounts to age discrimination that can't be justified.

"They don't have the legal basis ... for increasing a premium for an 80-year-old

driver," Olorenshaw said in an interview Wednesday. "It's serious business."

Olorenshaw, 92, of Toronto, launched his complaint after he began shopping around for auto insurance in 2009. Both he and his daughter had identical Toyotas purchased at the same time and lived in the same condominium. However, his daughter, then aged 62, was given a lower quote from the brokerage company Atrons-Counsel on behalf of Western Assurance. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trial

Man's murder conviction nixed over jury vetting

A man accused of kidnapping and slitting a woman's throat has had his murder conviction quashed because prosecutors and police acted improperly when it came to jury selection at his trial. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Military

Reservists still waiting for change

Four years after a landmark report raised the alarm about the care of reservists, the military ombudsman says citizen soldiers are still treated poorly and not given periodic health assessments or consistent immunizations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Benefits

Gov't should nix credits for kids, put towards low-income families instead: Coalition

Ottawa should eliminate some cash payments and child tax benefits and credits offered to Canadian parents and instead

direct the money to the lowest-income families, an anti-poverty coalition said in a report released Wednesday.

Campaign 2000 said the government should nix the child tax credit, the child fitness tax credit and the universal child care benefit and put the money towards the national children's benefit for families earning up to \$42,700 a year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Budget watchdog takes Tories to court



Parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page has filed an application with the Federal Court to ensure he can get access to information. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Matter of jurisdiction. Budget officer taking on creators of his job over withheld figures

Canada's budget watchdog is taking the Harper government to court over its refusal to turn over information about austerity measures.

Parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page on Wednesday

filed a reference application with the Federal Court seeking a judgment affirming he has the jurisdiction to search for the information.

In a covering letter signed by Ottawa constitutional lawyer Joseph Magnet and Tolga Yalkin of the PBO, Page cites the "urgency" of resolving the issue quickly and proposes numerous dates for the hearing from Nov. 29 to Jan. 11.

The budget officer has complained for months that

government departments have not been forthcoming with his requests on budget cuts, staff reductions and impacts on services.

In response, the government said Page is overreaching and that his mandate is to examine government spending, not government restraint.

Opposition leaders said Page had no choice but to go to court to perform his duty and accused the Conservatives

Obstruction?

"They've done everything to shut down Kevin Page since he started in that job."

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair on the Conservative government

of carrying out a vendetta against the budget officer, a position they created.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charity. Patrick Stewart, Morgan Freeman want you to wait for the beep

Imagine having William Shatner supply your outgoing voicemail message. Or maybe you'd prefer Morgan Freeman coolly telling callers to wait for the beep. Or perhaps having Betty White joke around is more your speed.

All it takes is \$299 US and some luck.

The advocacy group Autism Speaks is offering custom-recorded messages from those celebrities as well as Will Ferrell, Carrie Fisher, Tom Hanks, Derek Jeter, Leonard Nimoy, Patrick Stewart and Ed Asner.

From Dec. 3 to 9, a limited number of 20-second-long MP3 messages will be recorded by each celebrity on a first-come, first-served basis for fans to do with as they wish. All requests must be of the PG variety.

Asner, the curmudgeonly Emmy Award-winner of The Mary Tyler Moore Show and Lou Grant, dreamed up the fundraiser with his son



Morgan Freeman GETTY IMAGES

Matt, who works for Autism Speaks.

"I think people will get a charge out of it," says Asner. "I'll probably say, 'What are you wearing?' Or, 'Take it off.' Something like that."

All proceeds will support autism research and advocacy efforts. An estimated one-in-88 children in the U.S. is on the autism spectrum, a developmental disorder characterized by communication difficulties, social and behavioural challenges, as well as repetitive behaviours.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spills and shills

Liberal critic calls Tories lackeys for Big Oil, resigns

Ottawa MP David McGuinty abruptly resigned as the Liberal party's natural-resources critic Wednesday after suggesting Conservative MPs from Alberta are shills for the oil industry and should go home.

His statements came just days before a critical byelection in Calgary.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Online privacy

Facebook mulls an end to brush with democracy

Facebook proposed Wednesday to cease letting users vote on changes to its privacy policies.

The company said its voting system, which only triggers if enough people comment on proposed changes, emphasizes quantity of responses over quality.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Olympic spectator suffers bottle shock

Ashley Gill-Webb, left, and an unidentified woman leave court on Wednesday in London, England. He stands accused of throwing a plastic bottle onto the track seconds before the men's 100-metre final at the London Olympics. Gill-Webb pleaded not guilty and will go on trial in January.

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A Very Merry Mid Century by décor consultant Caelin Nadin

A time of grace, new glamour and the return to elegance, will deck out 5855 Inglewood Drive, a home which was built in 1958. With a Very Merry Mid century theme, and warm tones of amber, chartreuse and cranberry; the home will boast a modern, yet nostalgic style of home décor with a festive spirit Mad Men style.

Shift Interiors Caelin Nadin is an interior decorator, yoga instructor and life coach. She unites her passions under one brand known as SHIFT mind-body-home. Caelin encourages her décor clients to nurture their true personality through colour, texture, and light.



A Nature Inspired Christmas by décor consultant Joanne Abrahams

With beautiful dark woodwork and traditional architecture, 1655 Beech Street will bring a nature inspired Christmas décor to work in harmony with the ambience of this beautiful home. A predominantly neutral furniture palette will enable the Christmas decorations with their pops of red to take centre stage.

Joanne Abrahams, wears two hats-that of home stager and that of interior decorator. As a home stager she prepares both lived-in and vacant properties for the real estate market. As a decorator she creates spaces that meet her clients' lifestyle needs and design tastes. Her portfolio includes residential and commercial spaces.



Winter Wonderland by décor consultant Julie Boudreau

Built in 1943, 1990 Woodlawn Terrace will be turned into a Winter Wonderland. The golden tones throughout the home will be contrasted with Christmas Decorations in cool icy silvers and whites, found on a snowy winter's eve, to capture the magic of the Holiday season. Other Christmas décor items with pops of bright colors add a bit of whimsy to this very elegant palette.

Julie Boudreau's ability to visualize the desired end results is what enables her to guide homeowners through the decorating process and point them in the right direction when it comes to creating that perfect space.

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World carbon emissions still too high

Fossil fuels. UN report comes ahead of major climate conference

A UN report on rising greenhouse-gas emissions reminded world governments Wednesday that their efforts to fight climate change are far from enough to meet their goal of limiting global warming to 2 C.

The report by the UN En-

vironment Program, released just days ahead of a major climate conference, said the concentration of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is up about 20 per cent since 2000.

Scientists say those emissions are contributing to climate change and that failure to contain them could have dangerous consequences, including rising sea levels inundating coastal cities, dramatic shifts in rainfall disrupting

Quoted

"A transition to a low-carbon, inclusive Green Economy is happening far too slowly."

UNEP executive director Achim Steiner

agriculture and drinking water, the spread of diseases and the extinction of species.

Emissions levels, driven by the burning of fossil fuels,

need to come down by 14 per cent by 2020 for the world to reach a pathway that could keep the global temperature rise below 2 C, compared with pre-industrial levels, UNEP said. That's the stated goal of UN climate negotiations, which resume next week in Doha, Qatar.

But it won't happen if countries don't come ahead with more ambitious plans than what's currently on the table. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Steam and smoke rise from a coal-burning power plant in Germany.

MARTIN MEISSNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Reproductive health

Fewer abortions may be due to increase in birth control

U.S. abortions fell 5 per cent during the recession and its aftermath in the biggest one-year decrease in at least a decade, perhaps because women are more careful to use birth control when times are tough, researchers say.

The decline, detailed on Wednesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, came in 2009, the most recent year for which statistics are available. Both the number of abortions and the abortion rate dropped by the same percentage.

While many states have aggressively restricted access to abortion, most of those laws were adopted in the past two years and are not believed to have played a role in the decline.

By all accounts, contraception is playing a role.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Church rift

Failure to approve female bishops raises hell in the U.K.

The Church of England has some explaining to do following its failure to vote to let women serve as bishops, its leader said Wednesday, and politicians from the prime minister downward are already demanding action or answers. One legislator even suggested there might be an issue under anti-discrimination laws.

The governing General Synod blocked the change as the vote among lay members on Tuesday fell short of the required two-thirds majority. Bishops and clergy overwhelmingly backed the proposal. More than 100 members of the General Synod spoke in Tuesday's debate, largely repeating arguments which have become familiar in the 18 years since the church began ordaining women as priests.

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Only surviving gunman of Mumbai attacks executed

26-11. Secret hanging sparks celebrations for some while offering others a hollow closure

India executed the lone surviving gunman from the Mumbai terror attacks early Wednesday, four years after Pakistani gunmen blazed through India's financial capital, killing 166 people over three days in November 2008.

Mohammed Ajmal Kasab, a Pakistani citizen, was hung in secrecy at a jail in Pune, a city near Mumbai, after Indian President Pranab Mukherjee rejected his plea for clemency.

News of the execution was widely cheered in India, with

Quoted

"This is an incomplete justice as the masterminds of 26-11 are still absconding."

Widow Kavita Karkare on the execution of gunman Mohammed Ajmal Kasab. Her husband, the chief of Mumbai's anti-terrorism squad, was killed during the Mumbai attacks.



Members of the Bharatiya Janata Party celebrate the news of Mohammed Ajmal Kasab's execution in Mumbai on Wednesday.

RAFIQ MAGBOOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

political parties organizing public celebrations and some people setting off firecrackers. But for those more deeply touched by the events of 26-11, as the attack is known in India, the hanging offered only a partial catharsis.

Indian officials accuse Pakistan's intelligence agency of working with the militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba to plan the attack.

India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars since they were carved out of British

India in 1947, suspended peace talks after the Mumbai attack.

The two countries rekindled the peace talks in 2011, but New Delhi's frustration with Pakistan's failure to bring those responsible for the attack to justice has complicated those efforts.

Some in India felt Kasab should have been hanged publicly. Others complained that the government had already spent too much money on a vilified criminal.

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An Associated Press reporter demonstrates a shopping app on her phone in San Francisco. While there are a slew of smartphone apps that can help save time and money this holiday season, a new survey suggests most Canadians don't plan on using them. JEFF CHIU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Holiday shoppers not too keen on apps, survey finds

Retailing. Mobile discount-hunting can give buyers an edge, but it's been slow to catch on in Canada

Smartphones can scan barcodes and offer real-time discounts but most Canadians won't bother using apps while shopping this holiday season, a new survey suggests.

About 70 per cent of those surveyed weren't planning to use a mobile application or feature to help buy gifts, according to the results of a poll commissioned by wireless carrier Mobilicity.

Smartphone apps can give users notifications of what discounts are being offered in a mall and at what stores, said Anthony Booth, Mobilicity's chief customer officer.

"The real astute users are the people who have figured out how to take advantage of things in real time by using their smartphone," Booth said from Toronto.

Black Friday, the day after U.S. Thanksgiving, has come to Canada and generally marks the beginning of the holiday shopping season. Apps such as TGI Black Friday and Black Friday Deals and Coupons allows smartphone users to search from thousands of discounts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

↑	DOLLAR	100.35¢ (+0.08¢)
↑	TSX	12,100.06 (+53.78)
↑	OIL	\$87.38 US (+63¢)
↑	GOLD	\$1,728.20 US (+\$4.60)

Natural gas: \$3.90 US (+7¢)
Dow Jones: 12,836.89 (+48.38)

Switching to iPhones

Another U.S. agency drops BlackBerrys

BlackBerry smartphones are being dropped by the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board in favour of the new iPhone 5, with "performance issues" cited as the reason.

The Washington-based board, which is the latest American government agency to turn away from the BlackBerry, said it needs reliable devices for its employees to investigate accidents, often in remote locations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prepaid Visa. RBC drops expiry dates, most fees ahead of new regulations

Canada's largest banking group has dropped expiry dates and most of the fees on its prepaid Visa cards in the wake of Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announcing plans to introduce new rules for the cards.

RBC Royal Bank said Wednesday it will continue to charge a one-time flat fee of \$3.95 to issue the prepaid card but all the money loaded will remain available to make purchases.

Its prepaid cards will continue to show an expiry date but a new card can be re-

quested at no charge if a balance remains after that date.

Flaherty said last month that the government believes it's not appropriate for consumers to lose money if a gift card expires after a period of time. He said the government wants better disclosure of the terms of conditions of prepaid credit cards.

Flaherty's press secretary, Kathleen Perchaluk, issued an email statement saying the government would continue a "pro-consumer agenda." THE CANADIAN PRESS



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NHL COMMISSIONER GETS CANDID



HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

What follows is an exclusive, in-good-faith "marathon" interview with Gary Bettman, commissioner of the National Hockey League. While it's true the commissioner has been talking to other media throughout the NHL lockout, Mr. Bettman told me some exclusive things — things so striking and unexpected that he may deny ever having talked to me, or, indeed, having heard of me.

NHL insiders say that, using the logic of contract negotiations, his refusal to acknowledge my existence is a sign our talk went well.

He Says: Mr. Bettman, let's drop the gloves. What can the league do to win back fans after this lockout, which everybody outside of the players and owners believes was unnecessary and wrong?

Bettman: Well, we're very fortunate to have great fans in Canada that have nothing else to do in the winter that isn't illegal. As for Americans, they haven't noticed yet that we've been gone. So don't tell them, OK?

Straight talk

"The players will always be at a disadvantage in contract negotiations, because they're heroes betraying their fans."

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, in an honest interview with He Says

Bettman: If you read news reports from after the last lockout, you see headlines like: "Hockey: Does anyone still care?" next to headlines like, "Maple Leafs' second-unit penalty kill needs tweaking or heads will roll."

He Says: I see your point. But the NHL game was, before The Lockout: Part 2, at the height of its popularity. The hockey was faster, the women behind the benches were hotter, and mentions in late-night comedy monologues were at an all-time low. How did you kill all that momentum?

Bettman: You have to understand that there's been a huge philosophical divide between each side.

He Says: I noticed that in the various proposals. The players said the repeating lockout was an example of Nietzsche's eternal recurrence, while you adhered to the deconstructionism of Jacques Derrida, refusing to make whole.

Bettman: We spent one meeting talking about whether contract negotiations really mean anything in a cold, uncaring universe. We found a lot of common ground there. But that's not what I meant. What I meant is that we have a different attitude than the players, because we don't care what people think of us.

He Says: That's refreshingly honest.

Bettman: The players will always be at a disadvantage in contract negotiations, because they're heroes betraying their fans. But the management don't have to be heroes. No Canadian kid says, "I want to be an owner." Or commissioner. Keep it under your helmet, but I'm not very popular.

He Says: Your secret's safe with me. I want to thank you for your candour, Mr. Bettman. And remember, keep your stick on the ice.

Bettman: I'm sorry, what?

He Says: Uh, just forget it.



NHL commissioner Gary Bettman sits down to talk with He Says regarding the lockout. CHRIS SO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Choo-choo-chocolatey express



YVES LOGGHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World record

Longest chocolate structure rolls into Brussels

Commuters take pictures of the world's longest chocolate structure as it is displayed at Brussels Midi train station on Wednesday.

The train, which took 784 hours of labour to create, measures 34.05 metres (111 feet) in total length and was prepared with 1,285 kilograms (2,832 pounds) of Belgian chocolate and was built by master chocolatier Andrew Farrugia from Malta.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's as long as...

Let's see what else compares to the 111 feet of chocolatey heaven.

- **NBA basketball court.** An NBA basketball court is just a smidgen shorter than the train, measuring 94 feet long.
- **Baseball diamond.** The distance between each base in a baseball diamond is 90 feet.
- **The Mayflower.** The ship that transported English and Dutch Separatists to Massachusetts was 100 feet long, slightly shorter than the chocolatey train.

Culinary concoctions

It's a sweet time to be a world-record holder. Here's some other culinary concoctions that have set world records recently.

- **Cream cake.** Chefs in Switzerland took the title for the longest cake ever — a whopping 1,200 metres (3,937 feet) of sugar, flour and cream in November 2012. That's more than a kilometre of cake!
- **Chocolate bar.** The longest chocolate bar was measured at 15.9 metres (52 feet) long and 2.03 metres (6.7 feet) wide in Bologna, Italy, in 2011.

Calorie counting

6.5M

The model train packs an impressive 6.5 million calories. But the train isn't the largest chocolate structure in the world. That title goes to a California bakery that built a massive Mayan temple out of the dark sweet that weighs three times as much as the train.



Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Would you buy an attachable camera that snaps thousands of pictures of your life every day?



Twitter

@NSCraftStudios: "Glitter is the Herpes of Craft. You can't get that sh-- off" -Craig in the Wednesday Meeting #halifax #funtime #nova #scotia

@mike902: this riff raff halifax show better actually happen oh my god

@lisa_robe: Some random Halifax shout-outs - #rhfxso. Nice to see the Shaunslieve on Bedford Hwy putting

roofing tile on its own bus shelter.

@peterramsden: Hardy folk in Halifax! Seen at least six people in shorts.....

@ibringfood: The tree is now up and looks secure in Grand Parade, all that is left to do is gather round, decorate, drink and be merry. #halifax #treesup

Comedian Gerry Dee is loving his career and Life After Teaching

On the road. Star of Mr. D brings his hilarious tales of classroom misadventures to Halifax this week



BACKSTAGE PASS
Jenna Conter
halifax@metronews.ca

Perhaps after Gerry Dee won the San Francisco International Comedy Competition — the same competition that ignited the careers of Robin Williams and Ellen Degeneres — he felt confident that leaving teaching in 2003 to pursue this dream of becoming a comedian was a safe bet.

Though his journey was not completely without hiccups, Dee confesses that the ease by which he continues to rise is both rare and humbling.

"I moved through it fairly quickly. I was really lucky that I started out as a clean comic and it got me work right away," he says.

"And I had a car — agents will book you because you can make it to the gigs that are two hours away — so that helped."

Quoted

"...I had a car — agents will book you because you can make it to the gigs that are two hours away ..."

Gerry Dee on his rise in the comedy world



Gerry Dee has turned his experiences as a teacher into fodder for a successful comedy career. ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

All that driving, talent and material gathered during his teaching days, provided the perfect launching pad for Mr. D, Dee's CBC sitcom.

Mr. D is a pretty true-to-form account of Dee's years as a teacher, with some clever and legally responsible changes.

"The material is coming from a real teacher so there

are a lot of teacher nuances that teachers would get, which makes it different."

Proving truth is more entertaining than fiction, Mr. D has been picked up for a second season.

In October, Dee also added "author" to his list of talents with his new book, Teaching: It's Harder than it Looks.

"It's a totally different

path for me t but it's certainly exciting," he explains.

"Still strange that people [introduce me as] an actor, comedian, and an author."

Dee, whose resume includes Last Comic Standing, a special on The Comedy Network, Montreal's Just for Laughs Festival, and sports reporting for The Score, brings his Life After Teaching tour

If you go...

Gerry Dee at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium goes Friday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$57.50 and available through artscentre.dal.ca.

to the Rebecca Cohn stage on Friday night.

2 SCENE

Red is my favourite colour.

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November 24 at 10am

Don't miss the fun - colouring contest, prizes and special treats for all the kids! Photos with Santa are FREE again at Mic Mac! For your convenience, we'll email them to you directly!



Lindsay Lohan. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Lohan regrets nothing, could be facing more jail time

Lindsay Lohan has no regrets, she insists, despite the legal and family problems that have plagued her and impacted her career.

"I want to be known as an actress, not a troubled starlet," Lohan tells *Us Weekly* during a lengthy sit-down interview.

"(I regret) nothing, because then I wouldn't have been able to cry in scenes at the drop of a hat.

I have a tattoo, Live without regrets. I'm not

saying I wanted to go to a jail cell, but I've drawn from it."

Well, she might have even more to draw from soon.

It looks like she'll have her probation revoked for lying to police after a summer fender-bender, according to TMZ, and that could lead to more jail time for Lohan.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Rihanna finally makes appearance on 777-tour

THE WORD

Katarina Matsson
scene@metronews.ca

Rihanna's 777 Tour has taken its toll on journalists and fans who followed the star around the globe.

After a week, their frustration exploded. Constant delays and lack of sleep (those on board had to crash whenever and wherever they had a chance: on coaches, on board the plane or on a floor) and not knowing when the next opportunity to eat and drink would materialize, are circumstances most would endure with joy — if only the main subject of the whole trip would show herself offstage.

After mounting criticism spread like a wildfire online — that's the risk you take when you invite 150 journalists — Rihanna yesterday showed herself on the plane.

Wearing dark sunglasses, she appeared 10 minutes before the plane was due to land after the last leg. She even came close to offering an apology.

"I didn't get to spend as much time as I'd originally planned with you guys. I think you are tired as well, but I wanna now improve so I'm gonna come and sit here with you guys. And thank you everybody for making this trip the s—t," she told the journalists.

What was the hardest part of the tour?

The hardest part? I guess trying to balance being a hostess and a performer. I'm supposed to do my show and then shut the f—k up until the next show. Because the two hours we have to fly that's when I can sleep, but I really wanted to hang out and interact with everybody and give everybody my time. So I guess that was difficult.

Rihanna, can you sum up the tour for us?

Rock and roll, true friends, press who really want to know the dirt, rarely got any dirt cause I had to be good. I had to be good this time. We would have had a 333 tour if I wasn't good. I wouldn't have lasted. I still sound like s—t right now, but tonight is the last s—t so we are going all the way. No mercy, that's what I mean. I'm gonna put all my energy into this one show.

Twitter



@tyrabanks

Remember ladies: U don't need a KING to be a QUEEN!



@Pink

Wait til ya'll see how much weight I can gain in one meal



@ElizabethHurley

How many of my female followers wear skirts/dresses by day? Press events aside, I wear jeans or pants every day without exception #curious



@SarahKSilverman

Trying to feel okay about picking up my tofurky thanksgiving meal for 1



Justin Bieber

Oprah dishes out dating advice for Justin Bieber

While Justin Bieber may still be making attempts to win back ex-girlfriend Selena Gomez, at least one influential personality thinks he should cool it — and maybe revise his previously stated plans to be married by 25, too.

"I think 25 is too young, actually, I really do — particularly for you," Oprah Winfrey told Bieber during a one-on-one interview with the superstar.

"Your whole 20s is about discovering who you really are. You owe that to yourself,

particularly because of the business that you're in (where there's) not a lot of self-discovery time because so much is already defined for you."

In other news, prosecutors decided not to file any charges against Bieber after investigators found no evidence that the pop star had kicked and punched a photographer after leaving a movie theatre last month, a document obtained Wednesday states.

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A la mode in many ways: The black short-sleeved dress from H&M (\$49.95) on the left is seen accompanied respectively by a Vince fur vest from Holt Renfrew (\$1,975), grey cardigan from Topshop at the Bay (\$100) and a black jacket with faux-leather sleeves from Dynamite (\$49.90). AARON VINCENT ELKAIM / THE CANADIAN PRESS

A dress fit for four fêtes

Deck the holidays. No need to break the bank on several new outfits as you navigate the social circuit this season

Whether you're heading to cocktails, the office bash or a family gathering, a few fashionable additions can add some oomph to your festive wardrobe.

"As much as we know that we've got lots of different parties on our calendar for the holidays, we don't always have to necessarily buy four different outfits," said Julia Cyboran, editor-in-chief of Loulou magazine. "It's all about how you style one main piece."

THE STAPLE PIECE

Cyboran said the little black dress is the wardrobe essential for any holiday look. That's likely music to the ears of cost-conscious fashionistas who may already have an LBD tucked away in their closet or

Bling it on

Trying to select several eye-catching add-ons to amp up your party attire?

- **Step in style.** In the case of those seeking a little lift, Julia Cyboran said the pointy-toed pump that dominated the fashion runways is emerging as a standout on the market.
- **In the bag.** Cyboran said the solid, structured pillbox clutch will remain a style standout for the holidays, but expect to see envelope clutches in the hands of

women heading out on the town.

- **Making a statement.** Bigger is better when it comes to statement jewelry, with large-scale earrings and necklaces among the holiday accessory offerings. While rose gold hit the market last spring, Cyboran said it started to surface a little last winter in watches, belts and earrings, as did chocolate-coloured gold, and both colours have remained a part of the accessory landscape.

are able to scout out a new, affordable option.

The seemingly season-less style staple has a chameleon-like ability to transform from upscale chic to laid back casual.

Selecting the right style with its own intricate details such as pleating, embellished sleeves and a flattering silhouette can ensure it can work as a

stand-alone garment, Cyboran noted.

Going for glam

Looking to add a little luxe to your holiday look? Cyboran said teaming your dress with a faux fur topper along with some shimmering sequined booties can instantly infuse a glam touch.



Julia Cyboran, editor-in-chief of Loulou magazine, selected this black-and-gold clutch from BCBG (\$190), and Envelope clutch from Forever 21 (\$19.80) to highlight the season's key trends. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Comfort casual

Heading to cottage country or settling in at home for a more low-key holiday celebration? Cyboran suggests taking a robust, comfy warm knit worn with a belt over the dress, along with a pair of slouchy, low-cut boots for a more casual ensemble.

Office party chic

If you're pressed for time and need to make a wardrobe quick-change for the office shindig, Cyboran said a blazer with faux leather detailing partnered with a pair of pumps can easily help translate your outfit for after-hours.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

3

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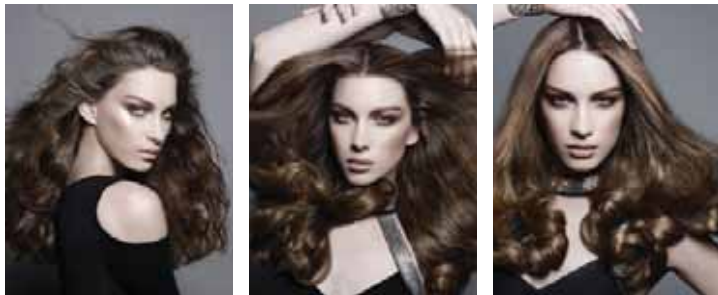
Payday loans are high cost loans. Some customers can get a \$200 Cash Advance for \$20 over their first advance only. Loan amounts are subject to credit review and other qualification requirements, and this offer is available for new customers only that are Nova Scotia residents. Under this offer for a \$200 loan, the cost of borrowing for the payday loan is \$10.00 for each \$100 advanced for a 14-day term. At month, under this offer, for a loan of \$200 for 14 days, the cost of borrowing is \$20.00 with a total payable amount of \$220.00 and APR of 200.71%. Payday loans qualify for interjurisdictional loans, and the cost of borrowing for a \$200 loan for 14 days would be \$44 with a total payable amount of \$244.00 and APR of \$733.7%. For a \$300 loan for a series of 14 days made under this offer, the cost of borrowing would be \$20 on the first \$200 advanced and \$22 on the next \$100 advanced for a total cost of borrowing of \$42 with a total payable amount of \$342 and APR of 305%. The maximum allowable cost of borrowing under payday loan agreements in Nova Scotia is \$25 per month \$100 advanced.

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Fred.Beauty	2606 Argicola St, Halifax	(902) 407-3733
Flaunt	2166 Windsor St, Halifax	(902) 453-4337
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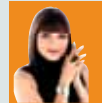


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@Jeanne_Beker: With the bold+beautiful plus-size bloggers @AdditionElle's launch of @EDITbyJeanneB



@Jeanne_Beker: Look at the fab rug I'm considering at @AngloOriental <http://www.anglo-oriental.com>



@Jeanne_Beker: Rob Lowe, hosting @pgawards just butchered my name. But hey, he's damn cute.

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Get in touch with your creative side this holiday season with a brand new camera.

Whether you are planning on simply updating your Facebook profile picture or blackmailing the neighbour with some racy photos, there's a camera out there to suit everyone's needs. Take a look at these fun photo gift ideas.

Nikon D7000 (body only) — \$849

This 16.2-megapixel DSLR camera is ideal for the professional photographer on

your list. With a 0.13-second startup and 50ms shutter lag, this powerhouse is ready to go when you are. The D7000 is capable of shooting six frames per second for up to 100 shots, and can be used to record full 1080p video with autofocus. Remember, lenses cost extra.



Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS20 — \$349

A user-friendly entry level camera with incredible zoom capabilities. Despite its shallow body, this 14-megapixel camera comes equipped with a wide-angle 20X optical zoom lens. Seventeen scene modes ensure you get the best picture under any lighting condition, while semi-manual and

manual modes are there for those who like to tinker. If you are feeling really creative you can snap 3-D photos, which can be fun if you own a 3-D TV.

Olympus Tough TG-1 iHS — \$399

It's one of the most rugged cameras on the market. Shockproof, freeze-proof, dust-proof, you can take photos in the most extreme conditions, even 40 feet underwater. Tired of shooting still photos? Turn this 12-megapixel camera into a camcorder and shoot 1080p HD video. The camera is also equipped with GPS, so location and landmark information will be recorded with every image you snap.



Epson Stylus Pro 3880 Inkjet Printer — \$1020

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iPhone Shutter Remote — \$40

Take photos



Clockwise, from top, Epson Stylus Pro 3880 Inkjet Printer — \$1020, iPhone Shutter Remote — \$40, Olympus Tough TG-1 iHS — \$399, Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS20 — \$349, Jelly Camera Phone Filters — \$15.

on your iPhone from up to 30 feet away. This neat little remote controls your smartphone via Bluetooth so you will never miss being in a picture ever again. Works with iPod Touch, iPad, and even the new iPhone 5.

Jelly Camera Phone Filters — \$15

These tiny key-chain sized lenses add cool effects to the photos you snap on your smartphone. Choose from starburst, kaleidoscope or wide angle. Each lens sticks to your phone with a gummy ring, which is reusable.



HOLIDAY 2012



gift guide

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Grrreat gifts for Fido and Mittens

Furry friends. Your best pal deserves a holiday treat too



YLVA VAN BUUREN
For Metro

Celebrate the season by wrapping up something nice for your four-legged friends! Here are lots of great ideas.

Give to Animals in Need – Fido will Approve

Giving time or money to a shelter or another worthy animal cause is a wonderful gift. Contact pet shelters near you or make a donation to an animal charity. Here are a few ideas: the World Society for the Protection of Animals (wspa.ca); Canadian Dachshund Rescue (weinerdogrescue.com); The Humane Society of Canada (humane-society.com).

Homemade You Say

Pet Network show producer Jen Mitchell Oddi created a recipe for yummy Elvis Dog Treats that features what else but peanut butter and banana, which the King himself loved. For the favourite pooch in your life, wrap up half a dozen and put them under the tree on Christmas morning. Find this recipe on her blog, mydogsbreakfast.com — search for “Elvis Treats.”

‘Catch The Mouse’ Cat Game

Turn your iPad into a cat toy? While it sounds a little crazy, it's actually great fun for cats and their owners.

This game features a cute little orange mouse that runs around the screen. There are sound effects (the mouse squeaks) and if you don't like an orange mouse on black, change the colour of the background or the mouse. The app costs 99 cents at itunes.apple.com/ca/app/catch-the-mouse-cat-game/id423287711?mt=8

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Holiday and many other patterns are available in a full range of sizes; from \$8 - \$56 at peachykeenpets.com.

Light Up Your Dog's Life

Keep your dog safe — and stylish — at night with a collar that lights up! Head-Lites premium LED dog collars are made in Canada in a variety of sizes, colours and patterns. \$44 online at head-lites.com or back to the bone.ca in Burlington, Ont.

Antler Chews – Don't Tell Rudolph

Antler Chews (yup, these are 100 per cent naturally shed antler pieces) for dogs are great — they don't splinter or chip, and there's no scent, mush or carpet stains. They're a source of protein, calcium and other nutrients, and they're easy on sensitive tummies.



Bret Michaels Pets Xmas Stocking

Priced from \$9.99 to \$34.99. Visit thisandthatcanineco.com for retailers.

Crinkle – Kitty Will Love It! Made in Canada, this light, soft and durable toy makes a crinkle noise that cats can't resist. Cats can learn to fetch the toy or may just choose to keep it close by. The Original Crinkle Toy costs \$2.29 and is available in most independent pet stores as well as Pet Valu, Global Pet Foods, P.J's Pet, and Super Pet.

Fun and Floss

Help your dog keep its teeth healthy with the Fun n Floss dental rope toy. Chewing on the toy actually flosses and cleans teeth. In different sizes, it costs \$5.99 - \$7.99 and is available at most independent pet stores, Pet Valu, Global Pet Foods, P.J's Pets and Super Pet.

Martha Stewart Pets toys



Fill a Stocking Just for Your Pet

Hang up the PetHoliday by Grrreat Choice Naughty or Nice Stocking for your dog and the Bret Michaels Pets Rock Tattoo Kitty Xmas Stocking for your cat — and see what Santa brings! Both cost \$9.99 at PetSmart stores.

Catnip for Two

Entertain your feline friend with Martha Stewart Pets dressed up mice cat toys — they're catnip-filled and have bells at the end of their tails. \$4.99 at PetSmart stores.

This year, don't blow the holiday budget



YLVA
VAN BUUREN
For Metro

Here are 10 ways we blow our budgets, and tips on how to avoid it.

Budget? What budget?

The holidays are fun but can be expensive too, says Mike Henry, Scotiabank's senior vice-president of retail payments, deposits and lending. "Plan ahead for the extra spending by budgeting a certain amount." Decide who you're going to buy for and how much you can spend.

Budget for gifts only

Don't forget to include entertaining and other holiday ex-

penses such as outside lights, postage costs and wrapping paper in your budget.

Guess that everyone will love the gift you choose

Research ahead of time (ask friends and family) so that you have a good idea of what each person might like. When you're at a complete loss, gift cards are great, says Cathie Mostowyk, president, Shoestring Shopping Guide.

Worry about having to buy for everyone

Consider exchanging names in your family so you are buying one great gift rather than several. Or go in together as a group to buy a large item for someone.

Did you know?

- A lot of women try to give what they think is proportionate to how much they love somebody, says Stephanie Holmes-Winton, but you can't always afford that.
- Research shows that Canadians on average will spend about \$300 per month on unplanned spending, says Mike Henry. Have a holiday fund and stick to it.

Wander around a mall for ideas

That's usually a waste of time, says Mostowyk. Research gift ideas and stores so you know what to buy ahead of time.

Bring kids when you shop

Shop by yourself so you stay focused. Leave the coat in the car and take a bottle of water, says Mostowyk.

Buy all the gifts you give

Get creative, says Stephanie Holmes-Winton, CEO of themoneyfinder.ca and a member of Advocis, the Financial Advisors Association of Canada. Wrap up all the ingredients for Christmas cookies along with the recipe. Or make the cookies yourself and wrap them up for a ready-to-eat treat.



Devise a plan before you go holiday shopping so you won't go over budget. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Charge everything

Holmes-Winton suggests some people might do better to withdraw the cash they have budgeted for the holidays because "you pay more attention when you are handing over real money." If that's not realistic, create a separate account for holiday spending.

Save points for another time

Using debit and credit cards that can earn rewards and stretch your dollar is a great way to get the most out of shopping, says Henry. "You might even be able to use points you've built up through the year on gift cards, travel or merchandise."

Figure you will sort it out in January

Keep track of spending throughout the holidays with online or mobile banking, says Henry. Talk to your bank about services such as ScotiaBank's InfoAlert, which alerts customers by text or email when their balance goes below a certain amount.



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HALIFAX
SHOPPING
CENTRE

YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL SHOPPING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Halifax is full of shopping neighbourhoods that can make for a fun day out and help you cross people off your gift list.

Stop by the new Trillium Neighbourhood on South Park Street for a collection of local shops. Hali Kids has clothes, toys and more for the children on your list. If you want gifts that are kind to the planet, P'lovers sells green books, clothes, bedding and an entire line of hemp products.

Thornbloom has home goods and Pre-amble has a range of footwear. A walk down Spring Garden Road to the city's downtown

will take you past many shops lit up by Shopping Under the Stars. Local standards such as Jennifer's of Nova Scotia and Bookmark have lots of small presents, and Park Lane Mall can give you a break if the weather turns foul.

From Spring Garden Road, head downtown. Visit Biscuit General Store on Argyle Street for cute clothes and a section of great gifts for under \$20. Nearby Freak Lunchbox on Barrington has some of the oddest items you'll find. It is proudly "inspired by circus sideshows" and boasts tons of pop culture kitsch and, of course, loads of vintage candy. Carbonstok on Barrington is another great spot when you know the person you're buying for, but don't know what to get them. World's Tea House on Argyle Street has dozens of teas and tea-accessories.

If you're looking for original jewelry,



visit Bedazzled in Bishops Landing. It carries hand-made items made in house and by local artists.

The Historic Properties has several local shops in a mall-style setting on the waterfront, including Carrefour Atlantic Emporium for local books, as well as gifts for sale at Aitkens Pewter, Puffin Gallery and Mahone Bay Trading.

Check out Ilovelocalhfx.ca for a list of independent Halifax businesses.

Take a break with a ferry ride to Dartmouth to check out some of its local options. Morrigan Le Fay's Mystical Gifts on Alderney Drive has leatherware,

pottery, gothic fashions and even swords for your otherworldly friends. For your book-loving friends, head a little further out to visit J.W. Doull's new location at 133 Main St. It's the same giant second-hand and rare collection that used to be on Barrington Street.

Other areas worth visiting include Quinpool Road, where the Trail Shop will cater to your outdoorsy friends. Topiary in the north-end's Hydrostone district has gardening gift, and the string of shops also sell jewelry shops, furniture stores and food.

- Jon Tattrie

HOLIDAY SHOPPING STARTS HERE

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SMALL BUSINESSES THE BACKBONE OF HALIFAX'S ECONOMY

While the ample parking and gigantic stores of Halifax's business parks offer an obvious holiday shopping appeal, local businesses argue shopping at independent stores is critical to the city's financial health.

"Small businesses are the backbone of Halifax's economy, the way that they are in every city and town across Canada," says Paul MacKinnon, executive director of the Downtown Halifax Business Commission.

He says a small city like Halifax has the added bonus that shopping locally helps people you likely know from other aspects of your life.

"Halifax is still a nice size, so that it is urban, but you can still walk into a local business and see the owner. You may recognize them from your yoga class, or know their kids from minor hockey, or run into them at the Farmers Market," he says. "There is a nice sense of community downtown."

It can also lead to better customer service, as you're building on an existing relationship and will likely see the same faces running the shops from year to year.

MacKinnon admits the downtown core can't compete with the acres of parking in the malls and business parks, but notes there is a lot of on-street parking (free

evenings and weekends) and indoor garages at Metro Park and Scotia Square. "It's pretty rare that you can't find a spot pretty close to where you want to go," he says.

And he's confident that once you're downtown, you'll have a better time. You can walk to every shop and there are cafes and pubs to take breaks in. He says you'll find more unique presents downtown, something you'd be hard-pressed to do in other shopping areas.

"Aside from what we feel is a more relaxed shopping atmosphere, what you tend to see downtown are gifts that you won't find international chains," he says.

MacKinnon says the main area for shopping locally is Barrington Street and Spring Garden Road, but it's worth wandering off the beaten path to Bishop's Landing, the Historic Properties and all the side streets in between.

Plus, people shopping at the big box stores are rarely stirred by the beauty of white paint contrasting with black pavement, but those downtown often admire the choppy white waves lapping against the lighthouse on George's Island.

"Just take the time to explore. And of course, leave enough time to grab a bite to eat, or a drink," MacKinnon says.

- Jon Tattrie



Photo: Thinkstock

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LOCALLY MADE GIFTS TAKING OFF

Kevin Vickers began his toy making business as a way of supplementing his job as a substitute teacher more than 30 years ago. Today, he and his wife Peggy operate the Toy Maker of Lunenburg full time, selling their popular line of high-quality wooden toys in markets around Nova Scotia and beyond.

The company catalogue includes brain teasers and puzzles, old-school hobby horses, pull toys, children's furniture and games. The games and puzzles are just as popular with teenagers and adults.

"Our best-selling toy is a pull toy that we've been making forever," says Peggy Vickers. "It never seems to go out of style."

Peggy Vickers says that the company's decidedly low-tech product line has no trouble competing with the vast array of electronic and highly manufactured toys that flood the market every year. The level of quality is part of

the appeal. So is the local factor. "Our customers like the fact that our toys are locally made from local materials," she says. "That's our edge."

The Toy Maker of Lunenburg is part of a rapidly growing trend – high quality, locally made gifts that are becoming more popular. Jennifer's of Nova Scotia has been at the centre of that trend for 30 years. The retailer sells a vast selection of Atlantic Canadian-made products at

its downtown Halifax store, with more than 8,000 items made by local artisans currently in stock. "All our products are 100 per cent Atlantic made," says store owner Kurt Bulger.

Bulger says that with encouragement from popular movements like "I Heart Local

Halifax," locally made gift items have gained in popularity in the last few years. Best-selling items include Christmas tree ornaments by artisans like Amos Pewter and Studio Glass, handcrafted pottery, glass and jewelry, and Nova Scotia-made Grohmann knives. Winter woolens,

including those using a "thrummed" technique that weaves tufts of sheep's wool into the fabric, are a perennial favourite Christmas item. "It's great to see the trend in locally made gifts really take off in the last few years," says Bulger.

- Tom Mason

A TYPICAL HALIFAX SHOPPER

Ellen Doyle has just six gifts left to buy. Not bad, considering that she had more than 20 people on her Christmas shopping list: Family, friends and their children, co-workers – even her hairdresser deserved something special. "I expect to spend about \$1,000 by the time I'm done," says the Halifax-based health-care worker.

She might be a little more giving than the average shopper. An RBC holiday

outlook report suggests that the typical Canadian will spend \$629 on Christmas gifts this year, down \$21 from last year, while a more optimistic BMO report gives an average of \$674 — an increase of more than \$90 from the bank's prediction for spending last year. The top reasons given for the increase: More people on the gift list and an increase in family income.

Doyle likes to concentrate on buying what she knows. For the young people on her list, she concentrates on sporting goods and athletic wear. For everyone else, she likes to browse the myriad of craft fairs that crop up around Halifax every holiday season. "I love to go to the craft shows with friends. That's where you can find the really unique things – the special gifts for every individual on your list."

- Tom Mason

HOLIDAY SHOPPING STARTS HERE
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Three big holiday decor trends



DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Each year we see new colours being introduced to Christmas decor, as if the ornaments we use every year won't suffice.

Holiday decor usually follows suit with fashion or home decor, and this year it's easier than ever to update your holiday decorations and have a trend-setting home for the holidays.

Consider taking a few good holiday standards and adding a twist in order to make your home trend-worthy this year.

Use old ornaments

Colour block old ornaments into a concentrated area — display in a crystal bowl, use on a staircase garland, string on a garland across a window, decorate a spare room or donate to a local shelter. Do this three to four weeks before the holidays to give them time to enjoy.



Glitter Wreath: Mixing gold and silver is all of a sudden OK for holiday decorating this year. CRATEANDBARREL.COM

Glam with rustic

We've always been told never to mix the precious metals when decorating — mixing silver and gold has always been a faux pas. Silver has topped the list for sometime now. This year, we are taking the warm and cool metal tones and blending them to help create a more humble look. Using them in a rich, formal setting would be too much formality. Using them in a farmhouse or rustic setting helps add understated glam to a space.



Got some outdated trend colours from years past? Group them together and display in a guest room. SUPPLIED

Add a Punch

Wake up the predictable red-gold-green colour combination by adding a shot of cobalt blue or black to the room, it will give the colour scheme a sense of importance with the shot of darkness. A lot of dark brown entered Christmas decor a few years ago, stemming from the trends in home decor furniture. The brown feels a bit predictable, but when mixed with warm gold and a shot of fuchsia or purple, it can take us back to retro-Halston '70s.



Blown glass ornament: Grey ornaments help to create a sophisticated, cool vibe. URBANBARN.COM

Shades of Grey

Various neutral colours come and go in holiday decor — there's been taupe, black, sage and the ever popular cream colours. This year, look to inject a bit of inspiration coming from fashion. Grey is the new neutral and helps to make our homes take on a cool air of sophistication during the holidays. Team it with fresh greens, golds and citron for a punchy holiday decor. I suggest using this colour as an accent so not to over spend. Grey is the hot neutral this year, but most likely will not have longevity.

Holidays

Time to get your dishes ready!

Dear Mr. Butler,
With both American Thanksgiving and Christmas on the horizon, what can I do to deal with some of my chipped antique dishes to get ready for the holidays?
-Signed, Holiday Lady



CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

What an organized woman you are. Good on you for thinking ahead.

First, you need to know how many people you will be entertaining over the holidays. Will you be having sit down meals or simpler cocktail party gatherings?

Once you know what kind of entertaining you will be doing and how many people you'll be hosting, look through your cupboards to see what you have and what you may want to use.

With your inventory in hand, you now need to find some retailers who specialize in selling single pieces of antique china.

Some cities have great antique markets. For the



Determine what kind of entertaining you will be doing this season before stocking up on inventory. ISTOCK IMAGES

rest of us who either don't have these antique stores handy or can't find the pieces we need, there are some great online solutions.

I have found three companies that may be able to help you out, and I have used one of them in particular with great success.

The three most popular companies for china replacements are: replacements.com, chinalane.com and patternsearch.ca.

Remember, these are generally expensive. These sites are a great way to replace one or two broken items like a chipped coffee cup or cracked plate.

But if you plan to purchase an entire inventory, this is by far the most expensive route and one that I would not advise.



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NOTHING QUITE LIKE IT

LINCOLN MKZ STANDS OUT

The farther down the road Lincoln drives, the more it seems to come into its own as a source of elegant, but-not-too pricey wheels. The thoroughly altered 2013 MKZ stands out with its nothing-quite-like-it appearance.

The signature “waterfall” grille has been replaced by a series of horizontal bars that kind of resemble the shape of a flying bird with headlights at the tips.

But for real design drama you can’t beat the sweep of the roofline that flows well past the rear-most roof pillar, almost to the trailing edge of the body.

The car’s massive windshield and rear window glass, including the optional retractable panoramic sunroof, makes it doubtful passenger claustrophobia will



Lincoln MKZ

BASE PRICES (INCL. DESTINATION)

MKS: Full-size pickup, \$49,300
MKT: Full-size wagon, \$50,650
MKZ: Mid-size sedan; \$39,000 (est.)

pose a problem.

Inside is an ultra-sophisticated leather-covered and wood-trimmed interior plus a floor console extending seamlessly al-

most the full length of the cabin. In back, optional inflatable seatbelts for outboard riders cushion their heads and necks in the event of frontal crash.

In the suspension department, continuously adjustable shock damping, power-assisted electric steering, variable transmission-shift-mapping plus traction and stability control all combine to form Lincoln Drive Control. The result, says Lincoln, is improved ride and handling in Normal, Sport, or Comfort modes, as selected by the driver. A push-button gear selector next to the gauges replaces the

traditional floor shifter.

Powerplant choices consist of a 240-horsepower, 2.0-litre four-cylinder “EcoBoost” (turbocharged) four-cylinder. Optional is a 300-horsepower, 3.7-litre V6 that Ford installs in vehicles as diverse as the Mustang two-door and F-150 pickup. For maximum fuel savings, the MKZ returns with a gasoline-electric hybrid fitted with a 141-horsepower 2.0-litre four-cylinder combined with an electric motor worth a combined 188 horsepower.

— wheelbasemedia.com

MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME

LEXUS UNVEILS REWORKED LINEUP

Well, if what you get out of something is in direct proportion to what you put into it, then Lexus is about to reap some major rewards for a vastly reworked lineup, with two brand new models and a couple of others that have been beautifully updated for 2013.

This effort might come as a bit of a shock considering that Lexus and parent company Toyota were largely crippled during the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake and resulting tsunami that laid waste to Japan’s coastal cities. Clearly, Lexus is making up for lost time, so the flurry of activity actually seems about right.

The Toyota Camry-based ES is Lexus’s go-to entry-luxury model, even though the sportier IS is less expensive. In this league, size counts for plenty and the longer, wider and roomier ES beats the pants off the IS in the space race.

For 2013, interior volume has increased with the addition of nearly five



Lexus ES 350

centimetres between the front and rear wheels. Considerable sparkle has been added to what had been a design that for years was unnecessarily understated. The 268-horsepower, 3.5-litre V6 and six-speed automatic transmission carry over virtually unchanged from the 2012 edition, but what’s really new is the ES 300h hybrid with its 156-horsepower, 2.5-litre four-cylinder gas engine that combines with a 141-horsepower electric motor to generate 200 net horsepower.

The hybrid borrows its powertrain from the Toyota Camry hybrid and represents a natural extension of the ES brand, especially since the recent demise of the Toyota Prius-based HS 250h sedan. The new rear-drive GS is larger and priced significantly higher than the ES. It’s also helping lead Lexus out of the design doldrums where, along with many of its stable mates, the car has resided for the past number of years. Nothing overly radical, mind you, since it shares many

BASE PRICES (INCL. DESTINATION)

CT 200H: Four-door hatchback hybrid; \$32,900
ES 350: Mid-size sedan; \$41,000
GS 350: Mid-size sedan; \$53,200
IS 250: Compact sedan; \$36,250
IS-F: Quick-and-fast compact sedan; \$71,900
LS 460: Full-size sedan; \$85,000
LS 600h L: Full-size sedan; \$123,750

physical and mechanical components with its 2012 counterparts.

But front and rear revisions are obvious. Gone for 2013 is the V8 option, which leaves the GS 350 and its gasoline-electric hybrid GS 450h as the only available models.

The F Sport upgrade uses the same carryover 306-horsepower, 3.5-litre V6 as the standard GS 350. Both feature a six-speed automatic transmission, however an extra level on the standard driver-selectable operating mode has been added that firms up the suspension and sharpens the steering for an overall sportier feel. F Sport and the GS 450h are offered in rear-wheel-drive only.

— wheelbasemedia.com

Black Friday



STEELE CHRYSLER CRUSHERS

GRAND CARAVAN MINIVANS

	SALE!	SAVE	msrp
2011 Canada Value Pkg - #592798	\$15,500*	\$14,743*	\$29,820
2012 Canada Value Pkg - #502033	\$16,500*	\$13,881*	\$30,070
2012 Grand CaravanSE Plus - #530670	\$17,500*	\$14,168*	\$31,320
2012 Grand Caravan Crew - #502061	\$27,100*	\$13,506*	\$38,845

RAM TRUCKS

	SALE!	SAVE	msrp
2012 RAM SXT Crew Cab 4x4 - 5.7L Hemi - #510868	\$26,472*	\$15,149*	\$41,240

CHRYSLER 200

	SALE!	SAVE	msrp
2012 200 LX - #535372	\$14,980*	\$6,000*	\$21,790

FIAT

	SALE!	SAVE	msrp
2012 500 POP Demo - 5spd, air, sat radio, BOSE audio, 15" alloys - #502596	\$12,405*	\$7,815*	\$20,795

JEEP

	SALE!	SAVE	msrp
2011 Patriot Sport - FWD Auto a/c - #528333	\$14,500*	\$8,044*	\$22,995
2011 Patriot North Plus Demo - FWD auto - #543018	\$14,500*	\$10,833*	\$25,420
2012 Wrangler Sahara - 2dr auto - #557269	\$29,850*	\$5,761*	\$36,455
2012 Wrangler Sport Unlimited - 4dr 6spd - #578883	\$23,570*	\$5,347*	\$29,815

TOWN & COUNTRY MINIVANS

	SALE!	SAVE	msrp
2012 Town & Country Touring - #544463	\$28,405*	\$15,714*	\$43,665
2012 Town & Country Limited - #506721	\$38,442*	\$13,975*	\$52,190

HALIFAX CHRYSLER CRUSHERS

GRAND CARAVAN MINIVANS

	SALE!	SAVE	msrp
2012 SE Plus - #H30681	\$17,405*	\$14,168*	\$31,320
2012 SXT Plus Sto'nGo w/DVD - Managers Demo - #H64149	\$22,995*	\$14,600*	\$37,195
2012 SXT Plus Sto'nGo - Manager's Demo - #H04287	\$19,995*	\$15,818*	\$35,345

RAM TRUCKS

	SALE!	SAVE	msrp
2011 RAM SXT Reg Cab 4x4 - 5.7L Hemi - #H79293	\$18,405*	\$17,215*	\$34,970
2012 RAM SXT Crew Cab 4x4 - 5.7L Hemi - #H10870	\$26,372*	\$15,149*	\$41,140

CHRYSLER 200

	SALE!	SAVE	msrp
2012 200 Touring V6 Sedan - #H13028	\$18,405*	\$9,706*	\$28,440
2012 200S V6 Sedan - #H63109	\$25,390*	\$6,440*	\$32,585

JEEP

	SALE!	SAVE	msrp
2011 Patriot North Plus - FWD Auto - #H70736	\$14,405*	\$9,654*	\$24,395
2012 Wrangler Sport - 2dr auto - #H53059	\$19,980*	\$4,939*	\$25,890
2012 Wrangler Sahara Altitude - 2dr auto - #H75412	\$32,485*	\$6,900*	\$40,080
2012 Wrangler Unlimited Sport - 4dr auto - #H78391	\$26,335*	\$5,750*	\$32,930

TOWN & COUNTRY MINIVANS

	SALE!	SAVE	msrp
2012 Town & Country Limited - #H17444	\$39,422*	\$14,000*	\$53,190

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PORSCHE'S FINE LINES



Porsche Boxster

For 2013, Porsche adds the brand new all-wheel-drive 911 Carrera 4 and 4S coupes and convertibles. And, of course, Porsche has been working on another convertible: The new 2013 Boxster. It's all-new despite appearing familiar with its mid-mounted engine and recognizable silhouette. But the numerous differences collectively add up to significant change.

Visually, the windshield is now more steeply raked and has been relocated forward of the cockpit by 10 centimetres,

presumably for aerodynamic reasons and to keep your noggin a safe distance from the windshield edge when entering/exiting. The rest of the body is edgier, especially the deeply sculpted door panels, reshaped fenders and a rear deck with a prominent spoiler that give the Boxster a squared-up presence reminiscent of the Carrera GT supercar.

Porsche's designers also added about seven centimetres between the front and rear wheels for increased legroom,

although overall length has increased only slightly. The cockpit has been re-engineered to a similar degree, with an all-new centre console, control panel and optional sport seats. An electronic parking lever replaces the traditional hand-brake control.

The Boxster's six-cylinder engine has been reduced in displacement to 2.7 litres from 2.9, however, the horsepower rating has increased to 265 from 255 primarily due to switching to direct injection (fuel

BASE PRICES (INCL. DESTINATION)

911 Carrera: Coupe; \$94,800
911 Carrera Cabriolet: coupe; \$108,000
Boxster: Two-door roadster; \$57,600
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Panamera: Four-door sedan; \$88,600

squirted directly into the combustion chambers under high pressure).

Direct injection is also employed for the Boxster S's 3.4-litre six, only it also gets the same 315-horsepower rating. Both engines can be ordered with a six-speed manual transmission, or optional seven-speed twin-clutch automated manual gearbox called the PDK.

According to Porsche's stopwatch, the Boxster can hit 60 mph (96 km/h) from zero in 5.5 seconds, or 5.4 with the PDK (4.8 and 4.7 for the S).

Porsche's Sport Chrono package, available with the PDK, includes a launch-control program that maximizes standing-start acceleration, shaving about two-tenths of a second off the zero-to-60-mph (96 km/h) times of both models. PDK-equipped models also have a coasting feature whereby the engine idles out of gear when decelerating.

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Don't be fooled — not all doughnuts are created equal

Lemon doughnuts generally involve fried dough filled with sticky, tart-sweet yellow goo that tastes more of sugar than of serious lemon.

So here is a way to truly reinvent the lemon doughnut as a baked treat that is at once lighter and more deliciously lemony.

All you have to do is start with a golden cake-style baked doughnut, which is then flecked with the potent flavour of real lemon zest. You finish by topping the doughnuts with a simple powdered sugar-lemon

juice glaze. The result is wonderful.

1. Heat the oven to 425 F.

2. Coat 2 doughnut pans with baking spray; you can use pans designed for either large or small doughnuts. A mini doughnut pan will bake more quickly.

3. In a medium bowl, use an electric mixer to beat together the butter, oil, packed brown sugar, granulated sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt, vanilla extract and lemon zest. Beat

in the eggs, one at a time, scraping the bowl between additions.

4. Stir in half the flour followed by half the buttermilk, then the remaining flour and finally the remaining buttermilk.

5. Spoon the batter into the prepared pans, filling the doughnut wells to about 1/4 inch from the top. If using a mini doughnut pan, you will need to bake in multiple batches.

6. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes, or until golden and cooked through. Allow to cool in the pan for 10 minutes before turning out onto a rack.

7. To make the glaze, simply stir together the lemon juice and powdered sugar. Dip the tops of the doughnuts in the glaze and allow them to set or enjoy immediately.

Baked Lemon Doughnuts



These delicious doughnuts are baked. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

12 portions
Start to finish: 45 minutes

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, room temperature
- 1/4 cup vegetable or canola oil
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder

- 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 2 eggs
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 1 cup powdered sugar



This recipe makes 36 squares. NEWS CANADA

Baking is a great family activity as the weather cools and cookie exchange season nears. It's as simple as booking an hour in your schedule and preparing for the fun. According to the baking experts at Robin Hood, the key to a great family baking activity is choosing a recipe that everyone will enjoy making together. Start with this one for Sweet and Salty Chocolate Caramel Squares.

1. Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Line a 9-inch (23 cm) square baking pan with parchment paper, overlap-

ping sides for easy removal.

2. In a medium bowl, combine flour and baking soda.

3. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat butter and sugars until just combined. Add eggs and vanilla and mix until smooth. Add flour and baking soda and mix on low, until dough is formed. Stir in half of chocolate (150 g).

4. Bring caramel flavoured sauce to a boil over medium heat in a medium saucepan. Stir constantly, cook 5 minutes. Remove from heat.

5. Divide dough in half. Press half into prepared pan. Spread thickened caramel flavoured sauce over dough. Sprinkle with 1/2 tsp (2 ml) sea salt. Drop remaining dough over caramel flavoured sauce and spread until covered.

6. Bake 25-30 minutes or until light golden brown. Melt reserved chocolate (150 g) and pour evenly on top of bars. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 tsp (2 ml) sea salt. Let cool. Cut into squares.

NEWS CANADA/ ROBINHOOD.CA

Cookbook of the Week

Pick up, munch and repeat



Forget the fork and spoon, because the 100 desserts in Abigail Johnson Dodge's *Mini Treats & Hand-Held Sweets* can be devoured without. Dodge whisks together step-by-step baking instructions for a sweet-shop sampler of treats. No-fail recipes for sugary delights (along with delicious drizzles and favourite toppings) abound in this collection. Among the portable treats in *Mini Treats & Hand-Held Sweets* are Triple Threat Chocolate Squares, Toasted Coconut Snowball Cupcakes, Cinnamon Toast Scones, Frozen Chocolate Papaya Wedges and more.

METRO

Sweet and salty get married

Ingredients

- 2 cups (500 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) baking soda
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) butter, melted
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp (10 ml) vanilla extract
- 10 oz (300 g) chopped swiss milk chocolate, divided
- 1 can (300 ml) dulce de leche caramel flavoured sauce
- 1 tsp (5 ml) sea salt, divided



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DALPLEX

Black Friday madness may cost you your sanity: Is it worth all the hype?

Shop till you drop. Each year, more Canadians join the melee and flock to the States for the shopping extravaganza, and this time round The Bay, amazon.ca, Gap and Toys R Us will join in north of the border

KATHY
ULLYOTT
life@metronews.ca

Stampedes. Pepper-spray attacks on fellow shoppers. Store employees trampled, crushed and even killed.

Accounts of mall mayhem on Black Friday — the day after Thanksgiving in the U.S., when merchants offer deep discounts on everything from skis to sandwich grills — have become part of retail lore. And although such incidents are rare, midnight store openings, across-the-parking-lot lineups and unbelievable deals have become as iconic of American Thanksgiving as pumpkin pie and pilgrim outfits.

Each year, more Canadians join the Black Friday fray — the moniker reflects the fact that it puts retailers "in the black" for the year. Statistics Canada says 4.2 million Canadians travelled to the U.S. last November, presumably to shop. This year, stores in Canada, including The Bay, amazon.



Do you want to shop in this? Black Friday is one of the busiest shopping days in the U.S. and it's getting more popular in Canada with major retail stores joining in and offering bargains. GETTY IMAGES

ca, Gap and Toys R Us are all trumpeting Black Friday specials.

Still, Sally Ritchie, vice president of communications and marketing for the Retail Council of Canada

says Canadians aren't entranced with cross-border door-busting.

"Our polling data shows that only six per cent of people in British Columbia and five per cent of Ontario

plan to travel to the U.S. for Black Friday," Ritchie says; 94 per cent of Canadians will be staying put.

So for most Canadians, it seems, the question isn't, "Where does the line

start?," but, "What the heck?"

Well, obviously, there are the deals.

"It can be thrilling to get a key item for a really good

price," says Sarah Kutulakos, an American now living in Canada. "And there's the social aspect, the ritual. You have Thanksgiving dinner with family and friends, then you all get up early on Friday to go shopping." (Note: Kutulakos admits she doesn't go in for lining up herself.)

But more subtle psychology may be at work as well. Aparna Labroo, a consumer psychologist and the Patricia C. Ellison Professor of Marketing at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, points out that people want things more when they appear scarce.

Deep discounts, offering those savings for a limited time and making only a few of those products available (to, say, the first 100 customers) are all ways retailers "manipulate scarcity cues" — in other words, motivate consumers.

Enough to pitch a tent in an overnight lineup? Maybe. "People actually infer value (of a product) from the effort they put into getting that product," says Labroo.

In other words, having to line up is — for some shoppers — not only not a deterrent, it's proof that what they want is worth lining up for. "The many people present, all waiting, can heighten the sense of scarcity."

And, apparently, the need for a \$38 Blu-ray player.

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On your mark, get set, go ... shopping wild



Black Friday should be a silly and fun way to kick off the holiday season. Don't overdo it. ISTOCK IMAGE

But use good judgment while you're at it.

Don't get caught in the frenzy and spend money erratically just because you find discounts



MONICA WEYMOUTH
Metro World News in Philadelphia

Black Friday is a delicate balancing act between scoring as many great deals as possible and not turning into a crazed shopping Grinch. It's not a day for amateurs, so we hit up Dana Holmes, editor-in-chief of Gifts.com, for some expert tips on saving money and sanity.

Buy thoughtful gifts, not cheap stuff

It's hard to say no to a great sale, but don't just buy cashmere scarves because they're half-off for another hour. "Remember that a great deal isn't always a great gift," says Holmes. "Make sure you have a list of who you're shopping for, a budget for each person and some ideas for each person. I like to put some adjectives next to their names along with some of their favourite stores to stay

focused."

Keep your receipts

You will make impulse buys that you regret — it's part of the day. "Keep a zippered pouch in your purse to keep your designated Black Friday receipts," advises Holmes. "You don't want to misplace any — you're buying a lot of stuff, you're excited and when you get home you may realize you don't want all of it."

Bum a ride

"I'm a big advocate for carpooling," says Holmes. "Go with your shopping buddies and you can save a parking space and gas, which is a hot commodity right now." Not to mention, it's nice to have company in the parking-garage traffic — because oh, yes, that is a thing that happens.

Cross-check for online deals

Some deals, such as door-busters, are strictly in-store offers. But increasingly, retailers are offering the same sales online with plenty of perks. "If you see something you like, check it out on your phone — sometimes it can actually be just as cheap to buy it online, get it shipped and get it gift-wrapped for free," says Holmes. "Then you don't have to lug it around all day."

Quoted

"There will be lines, parking will be tough, things will run out — you have to enjoy it for it to be worth it."

Dana Holmes, editor-in-chief, Gifts.com

Don't fake being an early bird

Ultimately, Black Friday should be a silly, fun way to kick off the holiday season. If waiting in the dark for your favourite store's doors to open isn't your idea of fun, sleep in and skip the door-buster deals. "It's more about the camaraderie — it's for a special kind of person who really enjoys that," says Holmes of the 5 a.m. openings. "Everybody else, just go when you want. There will be lines, parking will be tough, things will run out — you have to enjoy it for it to be worth it."

Gift-list assist

Before you make your list and check it twice, head on over to Gifts.com and take the gift personality quiz. It can help you figure out what to buy for your picky fashionista sister before you melt down at the Cinnabon stand.

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Moose dump Drakkar in QMJHL heavyweight duel

Metro Centre lovefest. Halifax now 3-0 on homestand, which wraps up Friday against Cape Breton



PHILIP CROUCHER
philip.croucher@metronews.ca

You couldn't wipe the smile off Max Lindsay's face.

The 18-year-old rookie scored his first Quebec Major Junior Hockey League goal as the Halifax Mooseheads recorded an impressive 6-2 victory over the Baie-Comeau Drakkar in a battle of two of the top teams in the Canadian Hockey League.

In and out of the lineup all season, the free-agent signing from Ontario put home a rebound from in-close midway through the second period after linemate Ryan Falkenham drove the net on an impressive rush.

The insurance goal put Halifax up 3-1 and they rolled from there, taking over the game en route to another convincing victory.

"Once I got the puck, I just thought, 'I got to score,'" said Lindsay, playing in his 13th game this season. "I kind of just beared down."

That's exactly what Halifax did Wednesday night after watching Baie-Comeau jump out to a 1-0 lead just 24 seconds in.

On the lucky early goal, the puck went in behind the Mooseheads goal, then came out in front, bounced off one player's skate, then off the skate of Halifax goaltender

Fans in the stands

7,367

The attendance for Wednesday's game.



Halifax Mooseheads, from left, Ryan Falkenham, Max Lindsay and MacKenzie Weegar celebrate a second-period goal on Wednesday at the Halifax Metro Centre.
JEFF HARPER/METRO

Zach Fucale, and in.

Halifax didn't panic, however, eventually finding its stride, something the Drakkar couldn't match.

"We tried not to be too depressed about their goal," said Mooseheads blue-liner Konrad Abeltshauser, who had two assists. "We tried to take over the game step-by-step. I think after a couple of shifts we got the momentum going our way again."

Stefan Fournier scored twice for Halifax, with Randy Gazola, Andrew Ryan and Martin Frk getting the others.

Jonathan Drouin and Nathan MacKinnon each finished with three assists, while Fucale was sharp in making 24 saves.

"We are very happy with the win," said Frk, who potted his

10th of the season on a point-blast during a man-advantage late in the second. "We didn't have a great start, but we kept working harder and harder and we scored a lot of goals on the power play."

Raphael Bussieres and Gabriel Paquin-Boudreau had the goals for the Drakkar, which went into the game riding a streak of 15 straight games without a regulation loss.

Note: Mooseheads defenceman Trey Lewis wasn't in the lineup Wednesday after being suspended two games for a first-period hit against a Val-d'Or Foreurs player in Sunday's 4-3 win. The hit against the boards wasn't penalized.

Lewis will also sit out Friday's home game against the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles.

CHL rankings

Mooseheads ranked No. 1 team in the country again

For a third week in a row, the Halifax Mooseheads are ranked the No. 1 team in the Canadian Hockey League.

The new rankings were announced Wednesday and the Mooseheads (20-2-0-1) are again at No. 1, followed by the Kamloops Blazers (19-5-0-1) of the Western Hockey League, who jumped from fourth

to second.

The Mooseheads, who went 2-0 last week, have been in all 10 of the CHL rankings so far this season.

Third spot belongs to the WHL's Portland Winterhawks (17-4-0-1), followed by the Ontario Hockey League's Owen Sound Attack (16-4-1-2) and the QMJHL's Blainville-Boisbriand Armada (18-5-0-2).

The Baie-Comeau Drakkar (16-5-1-2) come in at No. 7, a drop of one place, while the Quebec Remparts have gone from seventh to ninth.

NHLPA and NHL 'still far apart'

The NHL and NHL Players' Association finally seem to be speaking the same language, but they still have a gap to bridge in negotiations on a collective bargaining agreement.

The union tabled a comprehensive proposal Wednesday that generated a tepid response from the league. However, commissioner Gary Bettman acknowledged the

six-page offer was a step in the right direction and the document appeared to offer a path forward in talks, with the sides now envisioning the same type of economic system.

"There was movement on some issues by the players' association and that was appreciated," said Bettman. "But we're still far apart. Hopefully there will have been some

momentum from today's session that we can build off of to hopefully bring this process to a successful conclusion."

The union proposed a 50-50 split of revenues during the five-year deal along with \$393 million US in deferred make-whole payments throughout the agreement. Two weeks ago, the league offered \$211 million and a 50-50 split.

NHLPA executive director

Donald Fehr acknowledged that his constituents are anxious to end the lockout and indicated that the new offer is "about as good" as the players are willing to make.

"(The players) are suffering right along with the fans," said Fehr. "We made an enormous move in the owners direction to try and end it — at least as of today that hasn't been successful." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Gary Bettman
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



Raptors hit Bobcats roadblock

Bobcats forward Michael Kidd-Gilchrist rises for a layup against the Raptors on Wednesday in Charlotte, N.C. Ramon Sessions hit a 16-footer with 28 seconds left and the Bobcats made a late defensive stand to beat the Toronto Raptors 98-97 Wednesday night for their fifth win in six games.

CHUCK BURTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB. Buehrle gets in two cents on way out of Miami

Mark Buehrle issued a parting shot at Miami Marlins management after his stay with the team lasted only one tumultuous season.

The left-hander, who signed a four-year contract a year ago, was part of the blockbuster trade that also sent all-star shortstop Jose Reyes, right-hander Josh Johnson and two other players to the Toronto Blue Jays. With the deal, the Marlins pared \$146.5 million US in future payroll.

"I'm upset with how things turned out in Miami," Buehrle said in a

Quoted

"Just like the fans in South Florida, I was lied to on multiple occasions."

New Blue Jays left-hander Mark Buehrle in a statement issued Wednesday

statement issued Wednesday through his agent, Jeff Berry. "But I'm putting it behind me and looking forward to moving on with my career." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Hufnagel dares to touch Grey Cup

CFL. Despite 22-year age difference, Stampeders and Argos coaches share many similarities

John Hufnagel bucked Grey Cup tradition Wednesday.

As he and Toronto Argonauts rookie head coach Scott Milanovich stood on opposite sides of the Grey Cup, the Calgary Stampeders head coach and GM grabbed one of its silver handles. That gesture caused a stir among reporters in attendance because coaches have traditionally refrained from touching the hallowed trophy until they've won it on the field.

But Hufnagel had no problem bucking that trend because he has won the Grey Cup, most recently in 2008 with Calgary.

Milanovich stood next to the trophy, close enough that his reflection could be seen in it. But he refrained from touching it despite earning Grey Cup rings in 2009 and '10 as an assistant coach with the Montreal Alouettes.

"We decided, as a team, that we weren't going to touch it," Milanovich said.

Why? "Tradition," he said.

Despite a 22-year age difference, Milanovich and Hufnagel share many similarities. They both hail from Pennsylvania, played quarterback collegiately as well as in the NFL and CFL, earned championship rings north of the border as assistants and are in this year's game after leading their teams to second-place finishes in their



Calgary Stampeders head coach and GM John Hufnagel, left, and Toronto Argonauts head coach Scott Milanovich pose with the Grey Cup on Wednesday in Toronto. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I think my name's on it."

Calgary Stampeders head coach and GM John Hufnagel on why he bucked tradition by touching the Grey Cup. Hufnagel has won the cup, most recently in 2008 with Calgary.

respective divisions.

Hufnagel, 61, got into coaching as a player-coach with the Saskatchewan Roughriders in '87 before becoming a full-time coach the following season. But coaching was in Milanovich's blood as a youngster as his father, Gary, was a former assistant football coach in Butler, Pa.

Hufnagel said no one should be surprised to see

two former quarterbacks in the Grey Cup as head coaches.

"It is a passing league, you have to have a real good understanding of pass offence and pass protection but don't neglect the running game," he said. "Usually the quarterback does have a little bit of a head start in that area."

While Milanovich and Hufnagel will be on oppos-

ite sides of the field Sunday, they did cross paths briefly in 2000 with the Cleveland Browns, where Milanovich was playing and Hufnagel was the club's quarterbacks coach. However, the association didn't last long or end well for Milanovich.

"I was released right before my contract became guaranteed so if you're looking for another storyline there's one for you," Milanovich said with a chuckle. "I can answer the question what coach Hufnagel must've thought of my ability as a quarterback but I wasn't a very good player."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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General Help

6707696 CANADA LIMITED o/a Soap Stories is seeking 4 retail sales reps for the location at Parklane Mall. \$11.60/hr Resumes 6707696Halifax@gmail.com

General Help

MSCC firm is currently seeking an Admin/clerical officers, customer service reps, shoppers, store workers general labourers and Drivers on FT/PT. Position requires excellent, organizational skills, hardworking, Ability to multi-task and get it done attitude in a very fast paced enviro. It comes with an attractive salary plus benefits. Send resume/email to: officeasstneededcal@gmail.com

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Merchandise for Sale

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Merchandise for Sale

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Spiritual

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Business Personals

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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

Flattery will come easily to you today but you must use it with care. Your way with words may be able to win others over to your side but do you really want everyone knowing what you are up to? Think about it.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

If you need to connect with someone you have drifted apart from recently, now is the time to make your move. Don't wait for them to approach you, pick up the phone or knock on their door and say "Hi!"

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You have been worrying for no good reason and what takes place over the next few days will remind you just how fortunate you truly are. Once your mind is in a better place, your physical health will improve as well.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Use your imagination and follow your dream, wherever it might lead. Some people may say you have taken leave of your senses, but more likely the opposite is true: You have at last found your true calling.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

The Sun in Sagittarius gives you bags of self-confidence and you must use it today to help a loved one or friend get over some kind of loss or trauma. The best way to do that is to make them laugh.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Don't try to keep your feelings to yourself. Let the whole world know why you are so full of love and laughter. Most likely it's because you have finally realized that life is supposed to be enjoyed, not dreaded.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

There is someone in your life you need to pay a lot more attention to. You know who this someone is and you know it is your responsibility to reach out to them. So what are you waiting for? Do it now.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

The Sun may have moved out of your birth sign but today Venus, planet of emotional and material values, moves in, which is not a bad swap. Who and what do you truly value? Make sure you don't lose them.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You feel good about yourself now but how do you feel about other people? You may have reason to believe that certain individuals don't deserve your friendship, but why make an issue of it? Forgive, forget and move on.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Give your mind and your body a rest today, and let others do the heavy lifting for a change. Friendships are under excellent stars now, so why not have fun with your friends? Laughter is always the best medicine.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Someone will ask you for advice today and you will be happy to give it, but do they really want to know the truth? If what you have to tell them is not what they want to hear, it could cause a falling out.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

Steer clear of subjects and situations that could lead to conflict. That is especially important on the work front where, if you speak your mind, you could make a powerful enemy. Not everyone wants to hear the truth. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

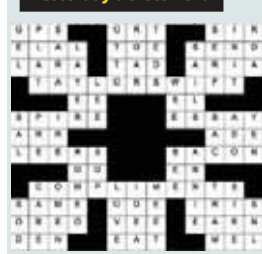
Across

- Children's game
- Decide on
- Rich tasty dinner
- Small inlets
- Prefix meaning recent
- Roof gutter
- Spat
- Cat or dog
- Egyptian Sun God
- Cattle
- Moves slightly
- Bible pt.
- Danson of Cheers
- Mate for Ma
- Highway exits
- Spanish cheer
- AM or FM instrument
- Served at Archie Bunker's Place
- Fridge maker
- Type measure
- Meadow
- Roman two
- Basement
- Fashion designer McCartney
- First two vowels in a sequence
- Blue Bloods actor Selleck
- Microbes
- Ticklish muppet
- Pitcher's stat.
- Vampire novelist: Anne —
- Cruel or nasty
- Served with crumpets
- Actor James Van — Beek

Down

- la la
- Atmosphere
- Joke
- Tree Hill
- Writing implement

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.



Sudoku

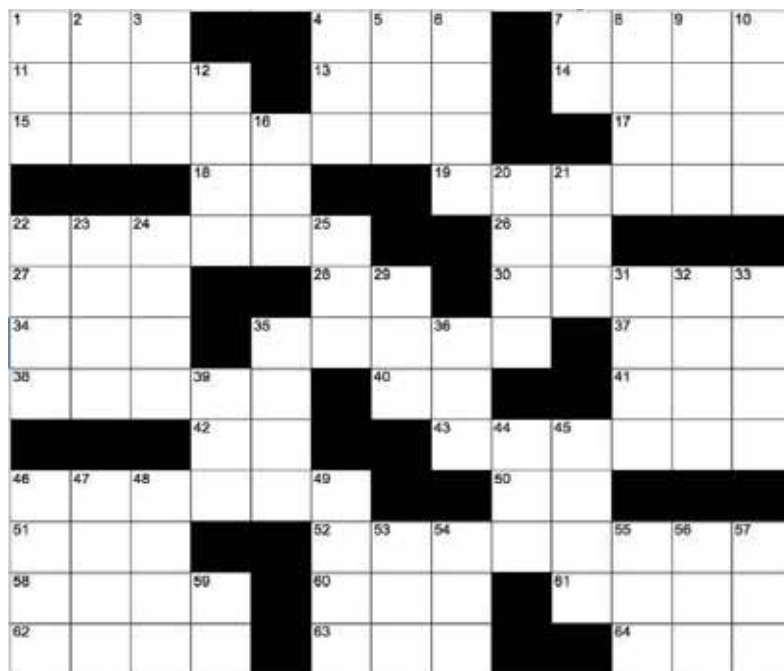
How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	2	8	4	7	3	9	5	6
6	9	3	8	1	5	2	4	7
5	7	4	6	2	9	8	1	3
2	5	9	1	4	6	7	3	8
4	8	7	5	3	2	6	9	1
3	6	1	7	9	8	5	2	4
7	1	5	9	6	4	3	8	2
9	4	2	3	8	7	1	6	5
8	3	6	2	5	1	4	7	9

BY BETTY MARTIN



- Children
- Wind direction (abbr.)
- Pre-record
- For always
- Dampens
- Ride the waves
- Gymnastics equipment
- Bull
- Airport info.
- Portico
- Rudder
- Brainstorm
- Health club
- Summer refreshment
- Teen hangout
- Beg
- Brand
- Method of transport
- Company abbr.
- Nothing
- Sit down to a meal
- Ogle
- Flower part
- Entice

- Stone or Watson
- Help in a robbery
- You Afraid of the Dark?
- Canadian Automobile Association (abbr.)
- Toss out
- Drink cooler
- Lingus
- "Golden Pond"

Today

9°/0°

Mainly sunny

Friday

10°/6°

Sunny

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